



TRANSFORMING EMPTY BUILDINGS INTO ECONOMIC DRIVERS

The Case of Burlington Generator



What Is a **Makerspace**?



A shared shop with access to unusual tools.

What Is a **Makerspace**?



A sandbox for learning,
experimentation and collaboration

What Is a **Makerspace**?



An incubator of ideas, products and new business ventures.

Movement **Highlights**

Over 2,000 **makerspaces nationwide** generating dozens of products like **MakerBot** which are being seen at places like the OSTP White House **makerfaire**, all part of a **growing culture** of DIY invention and entrepreneurship.

Burlington **Generator**

A publicly supported makerspace in the heart of the nation's 100 percent renewables-powered gigabit city.

Generator Background

Founded March 2014

Supported by the City of Burlington

Sustained by strong community,
philanthropic investment

Key partners include BCA, UVM,
Champlain College

Generator Buildout

Designated downtown transition zone

6,000ft/sq light industrial space

Workshops include woodworking, metal, jewelry

Tools include laser cutter, 3D printer, 4-axis mill, CNC router, design workstations





Generator People

180 members

27 volunteers

17 studios

3 “exchange” partners

1 corporate partner



Generator Programs



Classes include certifications, jewelry, welding, microelectronics, design

Generator Programs



Events include pitch competitions, social hours, teacher training workshops, tours

Generator Programs



Activities community builds, sales, equipment maintenance, talks

Economic Terms

Workforce development and training

- * Upskill employees
- * Lateral mobility
- * Train new workers

Economic Terms

Product development and fabrication

- * Design
- * Prototype
- * Production runs

Economic Terms

Livelihood and income generation

- * Market entry
- * Product sales
- * Contract hire

What's **Next**

Growth new home, expanded toolset

Accelerator increased business support

Impact data and econometrics

Longterm **Vision**

Burlington is a center of excellence

Generator serves a thriving ecosystem

“Made in BTV” is shared, recognized

Thank **You**

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